

## Would I Feel Richer If . . . by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

*Would I feel richer if I gave away less money?* I asked myself that recently. Several annual commitments to mission groups had come due. We set up some college funds for the grandchildren. We sent some other people support. And of course we always make our church gift. Wow, we just got paid and it's almost gone! What happened to the going-out-to-dinner money? And the new fall clothes allowance? I mean, what if we just stopped giving so much away? Would we be happier? Would it *feel* like my bank account was bigger?

I thought hard about that. I tried on the possibility that I'd feel fuller if I had more cash staying home. For a second, it thrilled me. Man we could have some big fun! In another second, it scared me. Would I ever risk going back to *not* tithing? I recalled the weight of being responsible for finances without God. I shuddered remembering when the balance of our spending was weighted toward doing what we wanted to do. Burdened on the outside, thin on the inside. That's how I felt in those years.

Then I thought about what it means to be invested in our church. To know we're running in our lane, shoulder to shoulder with the remarkably committed believers here. If we weren't prioritizing our church, I'd feel like a pretender in front of you. Instead, I *know* this is our family of faith. I fill up inside thinking of all our church is and does. And suddenly I feel humbled, even thankful that we get to contribute. That's the word: we get to. And if we didn't, I'd feel diminished, shut out, longing to find a tangible way to declare, "We're in! We're in with you."

I thought about other ministries we *love*. And that's the word: love. Our family loves Gardere, Dunham, Caring to Love, the Magruders and others. If we didn't give, we'd have more money. But less love. Which means less joy.

I also realized how much I value living in the flow of God's blessing love. He pours in, and in reply we try to pour out, responsibly but proportionally. If we just kept it, like a dammed up pond, we'd stagnate spiritually, emotionally and even financially. We wouldn't be as thankful, we wouldn't feel God's care as much, and I'm pretty sure, even if we had more dollars for a while, we'd feel not rich but poor.



Lesson learned for your pastor! I peered over the edge and realized, in my gut, what a joy it is to *get to give*.

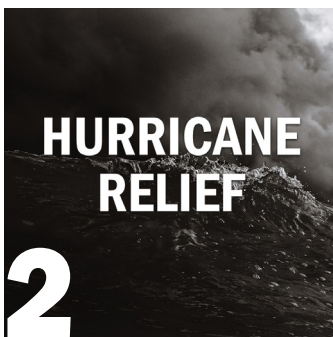
### Foto Sisters to Join Us for Service of Healing and Hope

As the holidays approach, the sadness of loss also rises. Many of us bear the pain of having lost very young children. Perhaps through miscarriage, through accidents or infant illnesses, through abortion or still birth. The sorrow remains. And our church would like to offer a tender touch. Sunday afternoon, November 8 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary, we will have a memorial service of healing and hope. The Foto Sisters will lead our

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Daylight Savings Ends - Fall Back	NOV 1
Discover First Gathering	NOV 1
Prayer for Our Nation	NOV 1
Congregational Meeting	NOV 8
Service of Healing and Hope	NOV 8
Caring to Love Banquet	NOV 12
Stewardship Sunday	NOV 15
Thanksgiving	NOV 26
Offices Closed	NOV 26 & 27

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Advent Brunch	DEC 12
Christmas Cantata (9 and 11 am)	DEC 13

## IN MEMORIAM:

October 5, 2020  
Joe Kusta

October 19, 2020  
Frank Richard  
Father of Charles Richard

October 23, 2020  
Carolyn McInnis

October 25, 2020  
Herman Baker  
Father of Carl Baker

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers are placed . . .

NOV 1 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dean Glisson and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wesley McLean by Mike & Linda Glisson and family.

NOV 8 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sarah Pipes Munson by Barbara Anne Eaton.

NOV 15 . . . to the glory of God and in remembrance of James Wesley Leake, Kathryn Leake Graving and Dr. and Mrs. Julius Harold Mullins, Sr. by Kathy and Julius Mullins, Jr.

NOV 22 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William J. Miller and Blake Miller by the Robert Miller family.

NOV 29 . . . Open date.

If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please contact Kathy Mullins at 291.3095.

## Hurricane Recovery Continues by Whitney Alexander, Assoc. Pastor of Missions

Thank you for all of your donations, time and resources the past nine weeks during hurricane recovery in southwest Louisiana. Our congregation has been very gracious to Iowa and Lake Charles with fifteen generators and many, many hurricane relief supplies. What is especially needed now is cleaning supplies, bleach, mops, brooms and buckets! Please consider picking up a few cleaning supplies and dropping them off in the church gymnasium during the months of November and December.

The pastors in southwest Louisiana have been working tirelessly to help their communities recover from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Laura and Delta, but they cannot do this alone. Church leaders and their congregations need our support now more than ever. There is an urgent need for volunteers to help with relief efforts. There are many ways to serve the families in need. Just showing up at a devastated home gives the families hope

and cleaning their yards brings temporary joy as they suffer quietly. Please consider coming to serve with our church.

Our FPC church family has consistently gone to serve on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Iowa, Lake Charles and Le Bleu settlement. We have served with Rev. Chan Willis, pastor of First Presbyterian Church Lake Charles, helping clean tree debris from about fifteen homes in his church. We plan to stay involved for a long time.

With the help of church members we are going to build showers very soon and are planning to set up a long-term recovery site in Iowa at First United Methodist Church in a few weeks and in the springtime in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Every gift matters and you have no idea how many people you have blessed especially in the small community of Iowa, Louisiana. Thank you for your participation!

## Angel Tree

Angels arrive Sunday, November 15! Please stop by the Terraced Garden tent to receive the name of a child whose parent is incarcerated. You can bless them with Angel Tree gifts on behalf of their parent this Christmas. Angels are available only on November 15. Coordinator is Cheryl Brodnax, 678.2448.

## Congregational Meeting and Election of Officers

The session has called a congregational meeting during our 9 and 11 am services on November 8 for the purpose of electing new elders and deacons. The officer nominating committee will place into nomination: Elders: Jamy Comeaux, Lynn Courtney, D.J. Davis, Mike Dorman, Linda Glisson, Chat Kleinpeter, David Kozan, Judy McGimsey, Keith Morris and Rick Naqvi. Deacons: Sarilyn Andes, Mitzi Barber, Paula Begnaud, Luke Breard, Nick Cagley, Ryan Castle, Jessica Concienne, Barbara Anne Eaton, Vince Gilcrease, Steve Hitt, Ben Hunter and Jordan Tupper.

## Save-the-Date

Saturday, December 12  
11 am - 1 pm  
At the home of Hattie Guidry  
1401 Knottaway Dr., St. Gabriel, LA 70776  
\$10 online registration coming soon.

We will have boxed Maxwell's brunch.  
Advent devotion at noon with an option to Zoom in and listen!



## Meet Kelly Wood: The Newest Member of Our Staff



Growing up as a 6th generation Baton Rougean, Kelly Heroman Wood quickly learned how to answer two recurring questions: “Heroman! Now, are you related to . . . ?” and

the ever-popular, “Where’d you get that red hair?!?” She earned dual business degrees in Human Resources from LSU before leaving home to pursue an 18-year career at Exxon-Mobil.

In her current role as FPC’s Discipleship Facilitator, Kelly’s desire is to create Christ-cen-

tered communities where people can be vulnerable and authentic, laugh and cry together, and generally “do life” together. She enjoys bringing her corporate experience to serve in ministry matters.

Kelly loves working in teams and helping people grow in their gifting. She finds peace in contemplative prayer and good fiction. Her favorite authors are Madeleine L’Engle, C. S. Lewis and Agatha Christie. She enjoys playing games, walking with friends and spending time with her family. After living in Washington D. C., Nashville and Miami, Kelly, John, Lucy Bea and John Isaac have been glad to return to Baton Rouge and call FPC home.

## Sunday School Is Up and Running by Darin Travis, Director of Discipleship

As we continue to welcome back worshipers into the house of God, we are excited to adjust our adult Sunday school classes for our growing needs. We’re now offering four classes.

### “Pastor’s Corner” Class

Terraced Garden Tent at 10.10 am



Join us for our newest class for a discussion about what makes the Evangelical Presbyterian Church so special.

In particular, we’ll look at our adherence to the “Essentials of the Faith” and their expression found in the Westminster Confession of Faith. Each week’s engaging discussion will be led by a different pastor (Gerrit, Barry, Whitney, Jim and Darin) about the beauty of our theology and tradition. Come get to know our church and our pastors better as we talk about the foundation of what makes First Presbyterian unique.

### Book of Isaiah

Reception Room at 10.10 am

As we steadily move through the fall, Ryan Dickerson will continue to teach a great series on the book of Isaiah. This warm and en-

gaging class will be a great place to reconnect with dear friends as well as make new ones. Join Ryan and his faithful participants as they explore the treasures in this foundational Old Testament book.

### The Medieval Church: Adopting the Good, Improving the Bad, Accepting the Ugly

Education Building, Room 202 at 10.10 am

As a follow up to the Ideologies and Worldview class, Jeff Swarner will give a high altitude pass over medieval church history while focusing on a variety of people, movements and events. Theological emphases will include: Ecclesiology; Revelation and Authority; Reform; and Depravity and Providence. Church history is a fascinating story of the faithfulness of God and Jeff will help it come alive with practical application.

### The “Tom and Jerry” Class

EB 202 at 9 am

These faithful early risers are meeting again. Come join them as they study the covenant promises of God. Note, this class does not meet at our traditional Sunday school start time of 10.10 am. This class is worth the effort to arrive early for its start time of 9 am! Taught by Tom Sawyer and Jerry Stovall.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 am and 11 am Sanctuary worship. Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.

## NOVEMBER SERMON TEXTS

Texts are subject to change.

NOVEMBER 1, 2020  
Psalm 29

NOVEMBER 8, 2020  
Psalm 30

NOVEMBER 15, 2020  
Psalm 32

NOVEMBER 22, 2020  
Psalm 31

NOVEMBER 29, 2020  
Luke 2: 7

## PASTORAL STAFF

GERRIT DAWSON  
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER  
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS  
Ministry Executive

JIM SOLOMON  
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

DARIN TRAVIS  
Director of Discipleship,  
Men’s Ministry & Young Adults



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Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Mother’s Day Out and Preschool  
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center  
225.387.2287  
brchristiancounseling.com

## Feel Richer *cont. from pg. 1*

music. God has used them to bring a unique healing touch to people all over the country. Please free to invite others from outside our church to join us for this quiet, prayerful hour.

## Abby Johnson to Speak

This year's annual Caring to Love banquet features Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood executive whose views transformed the day she assisted an abortion. Now a Christian and ardent defender of life, Abby's story was told in the feature film *Unplanned* and the book by the same name. Tickets are available online at [ctlm.org](http://ctlm.org). First Presbyterian also has a limited number of deeply discounted tickets available for \$20, please email [jaci@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaci@fpcbr.org) for info. Thursday, November 12, 6.30 pm at the Marriot.

## Perimeter Construction

Pay attention! Over the next two months our church campus will undergo the security and beautification upgrades that your Session approved last spring. As the project progresses, please pay attention to signage that will direct you to available entrances. Your patience is appreciated. You're going to love the final result!



*Gent*

## Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Members are invited to contact Sherry in the church office (387.0617 or [sherry@fpcbr.org](mailto:sherry@fpcbr.org)) to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Poinsettias will be placed in the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each.

**Adopt a Buchanan Teacher** Twenty teachers would love an encourager! Please contact Laura Shaw (225.620.0222 or [laura@fpcbr.org](mailto:laura@fpcbr.org)).

## Be an Advent Reader

We are looking for folks who will light the Advent candle and give the readings during the Sundays of Advent. Families, singles, old, young . . . all welcome. Please contact Jaci Gaspard ([jaci@fpcbr.org](mailto:jaci@fpcbr.org)) with the Sunday you are available. This is a special way to participate in worship during Christmas.